

REMARKS

Independent Claim 8 is the sole claim presented for consideration.

The specification has been amended to include a reference numeral for the heater. A Submission of Replacement Sheet of Drawing, showing the heater added to Figure 3, is being submitted herewith. Approval of the Replacement Sheet of Drawing is respectfully requested.

Claim 8 has been amended to further distinguish Applicants' invention from the cited art. Claims 9-12 have been cancelled. Withdrawn Claims 1-7 and 13 have also been cancelled.

Claims 8-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Bullock '201. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 8 of Applicants' invention relates to a fuel supply system for fuel cells, with the system comprising a fuel cell that generates power using fuel and oxygen and discharges water produced as a result of power generation, and a fuel supply apparatus for supplying fuel to the fuel cell. The fuel cell comprises a fuel cell supply unit into which fuel is supplied and a water discharging unit for discharging water, wherein access to the fuel supply unit and the water discharging unit is provided at a same face of the fuel cell. The fuel supply apparatus includes a mounting unit for mounting the fuel cell, a fuel supply unit for supplying fuel to the mounted fuel cell, and a water-suctioning unit for suctioning water produced inside the fuel cell. As amended, Claim 8 recites that the water-suctioning unit includes an evaporator for evaporating suctioned

water by providing heat to the suctioned water. Support for the claim amendment can be found, for example, in paragraph [0037] (page 12) of the specification.

In accordance with Applicants' invention, a high performance fuel supply system can be provided.

The Bullock patent relates to a replaceable fuel cell for use in a portable device. As shown in Figure 2, a PDA 100 is provided with a fuel cell system including a fuel cell stack 128 and a removable fuel cartridge 132. The fuel cell stack includes one or more cells 130. The fuel cartridge includes a housing with a fuel reservoir 142 and a bi-product reservoir 144. As shown in Figure 3, a fuel outlet connector 152 and a bi-product inlet connector 156 connect with corresponding portions of a housing socket 146. The bi-product reservoir can include a device for creating a vacuum, as discussed in column 4, lines 11 and 12.

In contrast to Applicants' claimed invention, however, Bullock is not read to teach or suggest, among other features, an evaporator for evaporating water suctioned by the bi-product reservoir. Moreover, as the bi-product reservoir 144 forms part of the fuel cartridge, it is submitted that it would not have been obvious to provide heat to the water in the reservoir.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Bullock fails to anticipate or render obvious Applicants' invention as set forth in Claim 8. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

Thus, it is submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in independent Claim 8 is patentable over the cited art.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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